

REMARKS

Claims 7-10 were pending and under consideration. In the Office Action of June 18, 2003, claims 7-10 were rejected. In response, claim 7 has been amended and Claims 11-13 have been added. Applicants assert that no new matter has been added.

Applicants would first like to thank Examiner Jonathan Crepeau for his helpful and courteous discussion held with Applicants' representative on November 13, 2003. During the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed outstanding rejections. Applicants' representative emphasized that none of the references taught a seamless continuous electrolyte layer. Further, dependent claims will be added, in this Amendment.

§112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with written description requirement. In response, claim 7 has been amended to remove the language "directly without a separator." Applicants respectfully submit the objection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

§103 (a) Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narang et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,168,885) in view of Schneider et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,180,281), in further view of Gozdz et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,840,087) and Kawakami et al. (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0064710). The Examiner has essentially alleged that cited references teach what is disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 7, from which claims 8-10 depend, recites a method of manufacturing a solid-electrolyte battery comprising winding a positive electrode and a negative electrode and subjecting said wound electrodes to heat treatment so that said solid-electrolyte layers formed on

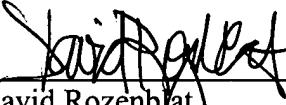
said positive electrode and said solid-electrolyte layers formed on said negative electrode are *integrated* with each other into *one continuous seamless layer*. None of the cited references disclose or even suggest subjecting wound electrodes to heat treatment so that said solid-electrolyte layers are *integrated* with each other into *one continuous seamless layer*. For example, Narang et al. discloses heating a polymer electrolyte and then applying the heated polymer electrolyte to an electrode, but fails to disclose subjecting a wound electrode to heat treatment. (See col. 10, lines 42-55.) Additionally, while Schneider et al. discloses forming a *separator* and electrode having a *polymer matrix* that has a plurality of individual polymer molecules which are interspersed uniformly throughout so that the composite is seamless, Schneider et al. does not disclose subjecting a wound electrode to heat treatment so that *solid-electrolyte layers* are *integrated* with each other into *one continuous seamless layer*. (See col. 3, lines 12-25.) Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by nor obvious over the applied references, either alone or in combination. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any remaining issue, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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